



The Last Dying Words, Speech, and Confession of the Six Malefactors, who were executed at Tyburn, near YORK, April 17, 1790.

THE feeling mind cannot but lament the fate of those unhappy wretches who, void of fear and common honesty, plunge themselves into the dreadful depths of misery and ruin; for, notwithstanding the poor malefactors who have this day been hurried from temporal existence were daring enough to violate the laws of their country, and bid defiance, as it were, to the vindictive arm of justice, yet humanity must drop a tear. The heinous crimes of HIGHWAY ROBBERY, BURGLARY, and HORSE-STEALING, have once more held up to public view the dreadful consequences which await on all those who forsake the self-approving paths of uprightness and industry.

THOMAS LASTLEY and **JOHN STEPHENS** Were both residents in Sheffield, and committed to York Castle on the 4th of September last, for robbing John Wharton, of the same place, labourer, and taking from him one baker, a shouder of mutton, a pound of tobacco, half a stone of soap, seven pounds of butter, and other goods.—From this singular booty which they obtained, it is natural to suppose that necessity alone had prompted them to the deed. But when we reflect that inhuman treatment and howling imprecations were the distinguishing marks of their conduct, that favourable suggestion vanishes; for Wharton was awfully threatened with death itself, if he did not make a surrender of ALL he had. From this expression, they were persuaded within themselves that he had money about him; but, when he declared that he had nothing more than what they had already seized, the altercation closed with “Then we’ll do for thee.” In some measure their vow was fulfilled; they beat him in a most barbarous manner, and left him in a truly deplorable situation, winking in his blood. Wharton, however, so far recovered in a little time as to reach home, where he recited the cruel business, and they were apprehended in a few days. They declared that they had contracted habits of indolence, and that they had committed some trifling offences previous to the flagrant one above-mentioned. They were both young men, (neither of them having completed their 30th year) behaved very penitently since their condemnation, and confessed the crime for which they suffered.

EDWARD WILLIAMS

Was committed on the 30th of August last, for robbing Thomas Watson on Win-Moor, in the parish of Barwick in Elmet, of three guineas and an half in gold, one shilling in silver, and a canvas purse. This unfortunate man, like the two former, proceeded to the greatest acts of violence in the commission of his robbery. Lydia Williams, his supposed wife, (though she declared on her defence that she was married to another person who was an accomplice) was in company with him at the time, and on her he wished to throw the stigma of first suggesting the idea of unlawful plunder. But it evidently appeared, upon their trial, that she was compelled into the business by the awful menaces of Williams, who told her, that if she did not stand by him, she should repent it. As soon as the culprit had taken Watson’s money, he knocked him down, trode upon him, and threatened him with immediate death if he made the least noise.—Lydia Williams, who is pregnant, received sentence, but has since been reprieved. He was an elderly man, had been a sailor, confessed that he belonged to a gang, but would make no discovery of his associates. He died penitently in the Romish persuasion.

JAMES HARTLEY,

Late of Manchester, was committed on the 31st of August last, for a burglary in the house or shop of W. Sanderlon, at Preston, in the East Riding. This species of villany, satisfactorily proved, is cer-

tain to meet the utmost severity of the law; indeed, were it otherwise, how could the inhabitant of any place propose a moment’s rest at that awful period which nature has allotted for repose? The facts were clearly proved against this offender, for he was taken within one week after the offence, and several dangerous instruments were found upon him. He was a stout young man, only 25 years of age, confessed that this was not his first transgression, but behaved with penitence.

JOHN GILLS, alias GILES, alias BEST,

Late of Framingham, in the county of Durham, labourer, was committed on the 14th of December last, for stealing a dark-grey gallop mare, the property of Wm. Chaloner, Esq; of Guisborough.—Immediately after Gills had stolen this mare, he made towards Hull, whither he was speedily pursued. As soon as the constable entered the room, at which time he was conversing with the landlord, he immediately asked the constable, (before he had an opportunity of speaking) if he had not a warrant against him? He was answered, Yes. Is it, rejoined the prisoner, for the Yorkshire or Bishopric mare? Being told that it was for the Yorkshire mare, he said, I wish it had been for the Bishopric one. Here the criminal acknowledged a fact with which he was not charged; and when he was told that the mare for which he was taken belonged to Mr. Chaloner, he replied, If I had known that, I would have stolen from a poorer person. Thus self-convicted, no hopes of mercy could be expected. At the time of receiving sentence he seemed careless and indifferent, but has since behaved in a becoming manner.

GEORGE MOORE

Was committed to Ousebridge gaol in November last, for breaking into the shop of Mr. Davies, cutler in Spurriergate, York, and stealing divers articles.—This old offender, though young in years, (being only 23) had been twice at the bar, previous to his last fatal arraignment. He had three accomplices in this burglary; one (named Thomas) turned King’s evidence, by which he was acquitted; the other two (named Longton and Broadhead) likewise received sentence of death, but were afterwards reprieved. Moore had enlisted as a soldier into two or three different corps, in which capacity nature seem’d to have intended him to act, for he was a remarkably well made man, above six feet high, and handsome in deportment. But, alas! these desirable accomplishments were sadly abused, for brothels and broils were his chief delight. During his confinement, a riot took place in the gaol, wherein he appeared to be the principal. In passing Mr. Davies’s shop, after trial and condemnation, he exclaimed, “There was the d—n’d business done that sends me to Hell.” After all, it is pleasing to add, that true penitence at last possessed his soul; he expressed great happiness that he had no murder to answer for, and said that he had such a sense and sorrow for his crimes as he hoped would in the end work out for his everlasting welfare. He repeatedly said, during the course of this week, that he would much rather die than live. May the peace of God be with him and the rest of his fellow-sufferers.

Moore was attended in prison by the Rev. Mr. Forest: and on Friday afternoon an excellent and well adapted discourse was delivered by the Rev. Mr. Richardson, from Amos iv. 12. *Prepare to meet thy God, O Israel.*

The culprits were attended to the place of execution by a numerous concourse of people. They all behaved in a manner suitable to their unhappy circumstances, prayed fervently, and with great earnestness implored the prayers of the surrounding spectators.

Thos. LASTLEY
John STEPHENS

EDW. WILLIAMS
Jas. HARTLEY

John GILLS alias GILES alias BEST
Geo. MOORE